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EXAMINER

BATES, KEVIN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/842,581

Applicant(s)

NABKEL ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Bates

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11-29,31-37 and 39-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11-18,20-29,31-37,39-46 and 48-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 19 and 47 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Response to Amendment***

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on October 24, 2005.

The Terminal Disclaimer filed August 16, 2005 has been received and has been accepted.

Claims 2, 10, 30, and 38 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-29, 31-37, and 39-56 are pending in this application.

***Claim Objections***

Claims 12 and 40 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The claim does not have any limitation differing for the newly amended independent claims.

Claims 4, 7, 31, 33, and 34 are objected to because of the following informalities: They are dependent on cancelled claims. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of

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those claims use the phrase, the ISC "may" or "may-be" perform a function, it is indefinite as written, whether the limitation is included in the claim since the word may is indefinite on whether what it is describing is actually there or not. Each claim listed must be corrected to clear up the indifference, and if any other claim has the same problem but is not listed, they should be corrected as well.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 3-10, 13-18, 31-37, 41-47 and 48-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emery (5610972) in view of Tucker (6532285).**

**Regarding claims 1 and 29**, Emery discloses a system for providing integrated control of at least one communication service provided by at least one communication service provider (Column 8, lines 3 – 14) comprising: at least one integrated services controller (ISC) connectable to a plurality of communications networks so as to communicate with system entities (Column 9, lines 6 – 11), wherein the at least one ISC is configured to dynamically receive a message registration list (MRL) through an interactive exchange of one or more commands (Column 9, lines 14 – 19), and registering one or more messages each of the at least one communication services has a notification interest in (Column 21, lines 21 – 35) include at least one a transport

association controller (TAC) (Column 13, lines 38 – 55, wherein the TCAP controls control messages between the ISCP and SSPs by standardizing the forms of communication between system entities and instructions for the nodes), association state manager (ASM), message broker (MB).

Emery does not explicitly indicate at least one ISC is further configured to provide centralized prioritized processing for the one or more messages exchanged with the other system entities through use of intelligent prioritization rules.

Tucker discloses a system with a service control point, that includes a message registration and alert list, where that list include a plurality of prioritized rules for messaging processing with other system entities (Column 3, lines 21 – 25; Column 7, lines 9 – 35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Tucker's teaching in Emery's system in order to allow Emery's integrated servies include the intergrated idea of a user defined call forwarding and blocking rules and install them at a single point for all the services in the system.

**Regarding claims 3 and 31**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured to control the at least one communication service for an individual person customer (Column 9, lines 14 – 19).

**Regarding claims 4 and 32**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured as a child member within a group all related to a parent ISC that manages a customer group of related individual persons or a group of related ISC groups (Column 27, lines 1 – 20).

**Regarding claims 5 and 33**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured to control the at least one communication service for a plurality of individual person customers (Column 9, lines 14 – 19).

**Regarding claims 6 and 34**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured to monitor the high-level current state of each of the at least one communication services (Column 30, lines 34 – 43).

**Regarding claims 7 and 35**, Emery discloses that the intelligent prioritization rules are dynamically configurable by the at least one communications service provider so as to effect the prioritization of the at least one communication services by the at least one ISC (Column 28, lines 60 – 64).

**Regarding claims 8 and 36**, Emery discloses that the message registration list (MRL) is statically established with the at least one ISC through parameters set within the at least one ISC, from each of the at least one communication service providers (Column 9, lines 14 – 17).

**Regarding claims 9 and 37**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured to relay the MRL for each of the at least one communication services to one or more of the system entities (Column 13, lines 24 – 28).

**Regarding claims 13 and 41**, Emery discloses that at least one ISC is further configured to receive a profile of service-specific parameters settable by at least one of a customer or the service which may contain one or more variable entries from each of the at least one communication services defining a service profile for said at least one communication service (Column 28, line 60 – Column 29, line 5).

**Regarding claims 14 and 42,** Emery discloses the service profile adheres to a profile schema pre-defined by the at least one ISC which includes at least one master key field shared across the at least one communication services and may comprise at least one service-specific field unique to each of the at least one communication services (Column 29, lines 20 – 23).

**Regarding claim 15 and 43,** Emery discloses that the profile schema defines a visibility attribute settable by the at least one communication service providing at least one level of visibility setting that defines whether the service-specific field for said service are visible to other services when merged by at least one ISC (Column 25, lines 6 – 19, lines 51 – 60).

**Regarding claims 16 and 44,** Emery discloses that the profile schema supports a default entry for each of the at least one service-specific field settable by at least one of a customer or the service wherein if defined establishes a default setting for said field whereby all other entries in the profile schema establish exceptions to the default entry (Column 9, lines 14 – 16).

**Regarding claims 17 and 45,** Emery discloses that the profile schema supports a child ISC modifiability attribute for each of the at least one master key field and each of the at least one service-specific field settable by at least one of a customer or the service wherein if defined establishes a default setting of modifiability for said field by other child ISCs related to said at least one ISC (Column 18, lines 14 – 21; Column 9, lines 17 – 27).

**Regarding claims 18 and 46,** Emery discloses that the entry values for at least one master key field and possible service-specific field in the service profile are dynamically communicated, through an interactive exchange of one or more commands, wherein the current entry values for the at least from each of the at least one communication services to the at least one ISC at the time the said service is installed (Column 9, lines 17 – 27).

**Regarding claims 20 and 48,** Emery discloses a user interface connectable to the at least one ISC which provides for viewing and editing access to all or a portion of the MMSP (Column 29, lines 6 – 27).

**Regarding claims 21 and 49,** Emery discloses a first ISC is further configurable to communicate with at least one other ISC to provide inter-ISC integration (Column 26, lines 40 – 47).

**Regarding claims 22 and 50,** Emery discloses that one of the at least one ISCS may be configured as a master ISC and another of the at least one ISCS may be configured remote ISC relative to the master ISC for a specific customer (Column 27, lines 1 – 20).

**Regarding claims 23 and 51,** Emery discloses that the master ISC may restrict access to the at one or more messages and capabilities of the remote ISC (Column 27, lines 1 – 20).

**Regarding claims 24 and 52,** Emery discloses a plurality of the at least one ISCS may be configured as peer ISCS (Column 13, lines 56 – 67).



**Regarding claims 25 and 53**, Emery discloses that one of the at least one ISCS may be configured as a standalone ISC within a hierarchy of the at least One ISCS (Column 13, line 56 – Column 14, line 2).

**Regarding claims 26 and 54**, Emery discloses that at least one ISCS may be configured as at least one of: a master ISC to other remote ISCS, a remote ISC to other of the master ISCS, a peer ISC to other peer ISCS, or a standalone ISC (Column 26, lines 40 – 47).

**Regarding claims 27 and 55**, Emery discloses that the other ISC may be provisioned in the same network domain operated by the same communication service provider as the first ISC (Figure 2, element 40 and 50).

**Regarding claims 28 and 56**, Emery discloses that at least one other ISC may be provisioned in a different network domain operated by a different communication service provider as the first ISC (Column 26, lines 40 – 47).

**Claims 11-12 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emery in view of Lawson (5721825).**

**Regarding claims 11 and 39**, Emery discloses registering interest lists and relaying that list to other system entities.

Emery does not explicitly indicate that the interest list is based on events.

Lawson discloses a system where users register their interest in events with a defined profile (Column 4, lines 45 – 53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Lawson's teaching of an event registration list in Emery's

system in order to receive notices from a system, but only those notices that a user is interested in receiving (Column 2, lines 50 – 67).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 19 and 47 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 19 discloses a integrated control system in a communication service provider that includes a ISC communicating with system entities. This communication includes receiving a message registration list for each of what the communication services have notification interest in and using prioritized rules to communication messages to those system entities. The communication of the ISC also includes a profile for a customer with variable entries from each of the communication services profiles which can be automatically merged to form a merged multi-service profile.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KB

January 4, 2006

  
SALEH NAJJAR  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER